

**CITY OF WARREN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 2, 2013**



The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM April 2, 2013. Members present were: Dennis Crandall, Jackie Angove, Ben Johnson, Kirk Johnson, Todd Ristau, Judi Wilson and Mark Zavinski. Also attending were Mary Ann Nau, City Administrator; Mike Holtz, Director of Public Works; Cindy Strandburg, Administrative Assistant; and Nancy Freenock, City Manager.

VISITORS

Dan Glotz – County Planning and Zoning
Heidi Powley – Whirley DrinkWorks
Barb Babcock – Whirley DrinkWorks
Mary Hagan-Double – Whirley DrinkWorks
Farley Wright
Josh Cotton – Warren Times Observer

MINUTES

Upon motion by Mrs. Wilson and second by Mr. Zavinski, the minutes of February 5 were approved with the following correction:

Mr. Kirk Johnson stated that from his own experience that once you lose green space it is hard to get it back.

Upon motion by Mrs. Wilson and second by Mr. Zavinski, the minutes of March 5 were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Nau presented to the Commission a copy of the letter written by the children of St. Joseph School regarding Founders Day.

BUSINESS

Outdoor Fitness Court. Heidi Powley from Whirley DrinkWorks stated that she, along with Barb Babcock and Mary Hagan-Double, are part of a Committee made up of employees from Betts, United Refining, McKissock, and North West Savings Bank. Mrs. Powley stated that the idea of an Outdoor Fitness Court started at Whirley to meet their strategic goal to have more vitality in the community in terms of environmental health, wellness and fitness. One of the ideas that they had was to participate in Make a Difference Day. Mrs. Powley further stated that they would like to incorporate the opening of the fitness park with Make a Difference Day.

Mrs. Babcock stated that a Fitness Park is outdoor fitness equipment that is made to be used without supervision and is usually part of a City's Parks and Recreation agency. Some parks have centralized circuit training, some have equipment along trails and some have a combination of both. Mrs. Babcock stated that the Committee will do all the fundraising to install the equipment; however, they wanted to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission to find a suitable place for the park.

In response to Mr. Holtz's question, Mrs. Powley stated that they don't know how many pieces of equipment will be installed at this time as it will depend on how much money is raised.

Mrs. Powley stated that they had interest in placing the equipment at Point Park. Mrs. Freenock asked if they had looked at using Morck Park as it does have a pavilion and it is the start of the Hike/Bike Trail. Mrs. Nau stated that another location would be the Parkway on Pennsylvania Avenue, across from Crescent Park.

In response to Mrs. Wilson's question, Mr. Holtz stated that Crescent Park would not be a good location as it has a lot more trees in the park now as compared to when the old fitness park was there. Mr. Holtz further stated that if you have only a few pieces of equipment it could be tucked away behind the railroad tracks.

In response to Mrs. Hagan-Double's question, Mrs. Nau stated that the equipment would have to be accessible to all individuals by a connecting pathway. Mrs. Nau further stated that the manufacture will send specifications on how to install the equipment and what you need to have under it.

In response to Mrs. Powley's question, Mrs. Nau stated that the equipment should be installed so that there is not a lot of maintenance.

Mrs. Nau stated that their Committee should bring back their final plans to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Recreation Committee will help support the project when it goes before City Council for final approval.

Walk-able Warren. Mr. Glotz stated in 2008-2009 the County contracted out for the development of a Greenway and Open Space plan. Mr. Glotz further stated that when you do this type of plan it is more of a view down on a large area rather than a more focused view of separate municipalities. This plan not only looked at bicycle and walking trails but water trails as well. This type of plan identifies trail-towns, which are municipalities with all the amenities that someone looking into trails could find within the municipality. The amenities include lodging, food, gas, and other things of this nature.

Mr. Glotz stated that they want to get people into the community and the idea of Walkable Warren was introduced. Mr. Wright stated that you need to use the trail ways to bring people into Warren. You want to try to get people into the core of the area to see what is here.

Mr. Wright stated that having the proposed outdoor fitness equipment spread out among multiple parks would be beneficial as people can bike or walk to each park.

Mr. Glotz stated that there was feasibility study to extend the bike/hike trail to the New York state line. The study developed some options such as developing a trail group that would be responsible for the maintenance, planning for future developments and trying to secure funding.

The Commission discussed putting together a group that would focus on the trails and walkway, not only in the City, but Warren County. The Commission talked about getting this information to Leadership Warren for one of their projects. It was discussed attending a Leadership Warren class after the next enrollment starts.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Crandall declared the meeting adjourned.